

# From Southend to the beauty of the Lake District: Airport launches new route



The Lake District

[Ian Burbidge](#) / 5 hours ago / [News](#)

The Government will fund [Southend Airport](#)'s latest route – to England's second most northern city.

In the Treasury's Autumn Statement, Whitehall has announced it will give a slice of £7million to fund a new route from Southend to Carlisle Airport, which will run twice a day.

Both airports are owned by Stobart Air, and the firm hopes to have passenger flights up and running by summer 2016, with the route operational after that.

Located less than ten miles from the Scottish borders, the historic Cumbrian city is famed for being close to the Lake District, the picturesque west coast of Scotland, and Newcastle under an hour away to the East.

Flights from Carlisle to Southend will be timed to allow visitors a full day out in Essex or London.

Graham Haywood, director of the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership, said: "These flights would provide those in the south East with an attractive and convenient method of accessing both business and tourism opportunities in Cumbria and the Lake District.

"They offer an opportunity for people to come and invest in the city, as Carlisle is also perfectly situated to access The Lake District National Park, Hadrian's Wall and other sights in the region."

Carlisle Airport bid for the Treasury cash, after the department announced its Regional Air Connectivity Fund, available for terminals that get less than five million passengers a year.

It was one of five winning bids, as well as routes to Belfast and Dublin from Carlisle, and flights from Norwich to Exeter and Newcastle.

The funding will provide support to each route for three years, and will be the only flight from Southend to another location in England.

Lynn Catling, from [Leigh](#), whose parents live in Galloway, in Scotland, said: “Amazing news, my kids can now see their grandparents more often.

“Ideal replacement for Edinburgh.”

Labour’s Ian Gilbert, councillor responsible for tourism at Southend Council, admitted he found the route ‘unusual’ but said his authority will try and keep day trippers in Essex, not the capital.

He said: “Anything that supports the airport and promotes it will gain favour with us, as well as the investment.

“Whether the demand or usage for the route is there, I’m not too sure, but we will be looking to promote Southend as a destination to stay, not pass through.”

Carlisle Airport needs to upgrade its runway and landing systems but hopes to have passenger flights starting by next summer.

Glyn Jones, the chief executive of Stobart Aviation said: "We welcome the Government’s desire to retain investment in regional air connectivity at a time of downward pressure on spending. We are awaiting confirmation of the detail of that investment with regard to operations at London Southend Airport before considering our next steps.”